# Public Safety Measures Addressing Extreme Drought

**SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021** 

FOLLOW UP FROM SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> UPDATE





## MEETING OBJECTIVES

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 PG&E briefed the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, California Public Utilities Commission, and California Office of Emergency Services as to how PG&E is taking every available action to mitigate and reduce the potential for its electrical infrastructure to cause an ignition.

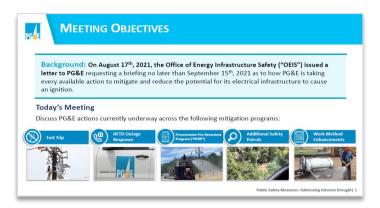
#### **Materials & Objectives for Today's Meeting:**

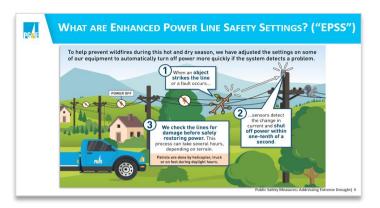


# Q&A from September 8<sup>th</sup> Update



# **Update on Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings** (Formerly "Fast Trip")







## RECAP / Q&A FROM SEPTEMBER 8TH UPDATE

Background: On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety ("OEIS") issued a letter to PG&E requesting a briefing no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as to how PG&E is taking every available action to mitigate and reduce the potential for its electrical infrastructure to cause an ignition.

#### **PG&E Actions & Programs to Reduce Ignition Potential Risk:**





HFTD Outage Response



Preventative Fire Retardant Program ("PFRP")



Additional Safety
Patrols



Work Method Enhancements











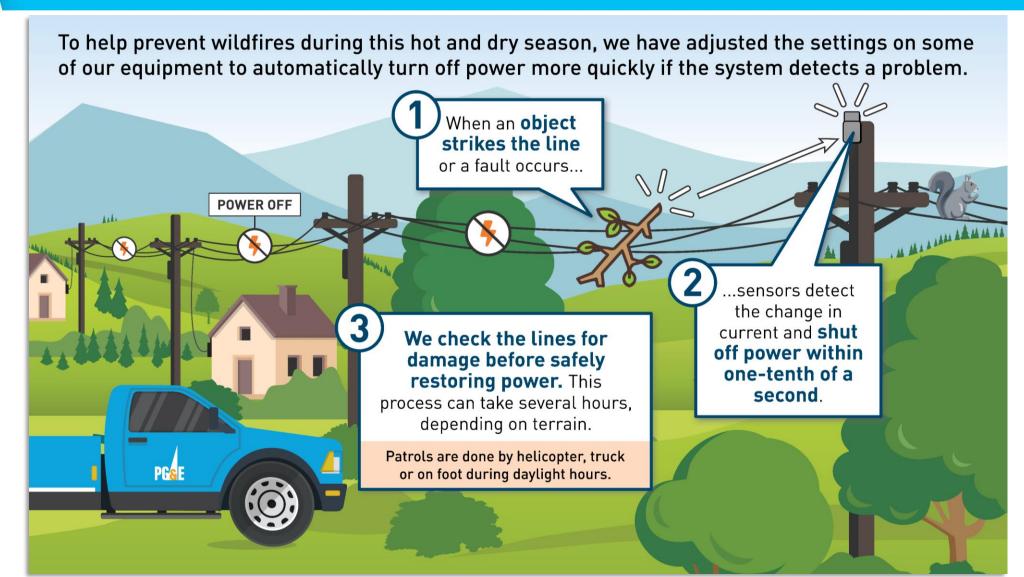
# ENHANCED POWERLINE SAFETY SETTINGS (FORMERLY "FAST TRIP")

Public Safety Measures Addressing Extreme Drought





## What are Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings? ("EPSS")



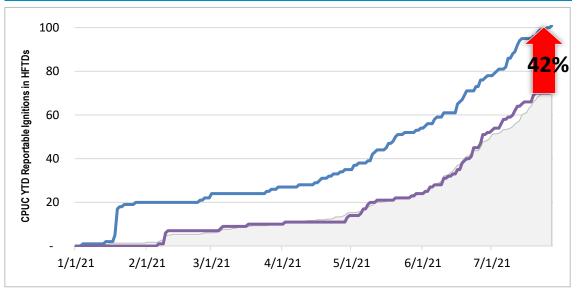


## **EPSS OVERALL HFTD IGNITION REDUCTION**

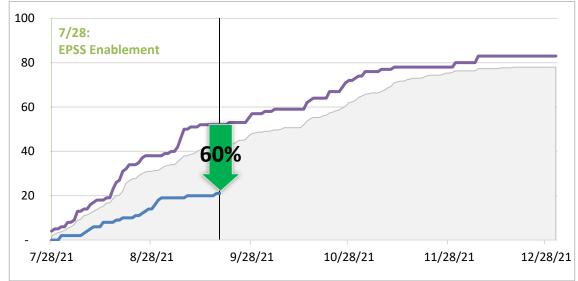


EPSS and our Wildfire Mitigation Plan programs have resulted in a 60% decrease as compared 2020 and a 50% decrease as compared to the 3-year average of CPUC Reportable Ignitions in HFTDs that could lead to a potential catastrophic wildfire

2021 ignitions were trending 42% above 2020 and 35% above the 3 year historical average ignitions...



...Until EPSS, which lowered the ignitions 60% vs. last year and 50% from our 3 year average





## **EPSS CIRCUIT-SPECIFIC IGNITION REDUCTION**



On EPSS enabled circuits, the CPUC Reportable Ignition-to-outage ratio is **down nearly 80%** across the same time period last year.

#### For EPSS-Enabled Circuits only...

PERIOD	CPUC REPORTABLE IGNITIONS (7/28 – 9/18)	OUTAGES (7/28 – 9/18)	IGNITION % OF OUTAGES	
2021	1	302	0.3%	700/
2020	18	1,291	1.4%	<b>79%</b> REDUCTION VS. 2020
<b>3-YEAR AVERAGE</b> (2020-2018)	17	763	2.2%	
MAY - NOVEMBER	SYSTEM_WIDE IGNIT	ION % OF OUTAGES1:	3.6%	_

**REDUCTION** 92% VS. 3 YR. **REDUCTION EPSS CIRCUIT** VS. 3 YEAR **AVERAGE** SYSTEM-WIDE **AVERAGE** 

86%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CPUC reportable ignitions to outages observed from 2015-2020 between May-November excluding weather days that included rain, winter storm, low snow, lightning, for each of those cause classes



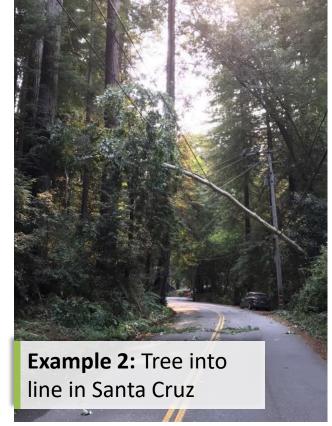
## **EPSS RISK REDUCTION EXAMPLES**

We have an unwavering focus to mitigate reliability impacts while maintaining the risk reduction from instances where a hazard was found from an EPSS outage that potentially prevented a wildfire

**Example 1:** Oakhurst Veg Contact & Wires Down

On September 7th, ~1,000 customers in the Oakhurst area lost power when a device in EPSS tripped on the Coarsegold 2104 circuit and deenergized the line.

During the restoration patrol, a PG&E qualified technician arrived on site to find what appeared to be a green healthy oak tree that had broken and fallen on the line, taking down two poles and the conductor with it. The tree failure occurred in an area of dense dry fuels along a narrow road – an area with high potential for fire spread that could be challenging to suppress quickly.







## **EPSS OVERALL CUSTOMER & RELIABILITY IMPACT**

Adjusting circuit devices to EPSS makes the system safer and helps to reduce potential wildfires, however it has also resulted in more frequent and longer outages for customers.

On EPSS Circuits between 7/28 to 9/18:

302	EPSS outages	
380,317	Impacted Customers	
495	Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI)	
34	Counties experiencing an EPSS – related outage	

We understand what these impacts mean to our customers & communities:



**Increase in outage frequency:** increase in outage for certain circuits in specific geographic locations



More Customers with power interruptions: ~120% increase in Total Customers Out



More customers out of power for longer: ~500% increase in Customer Outage Minutes



Longer outage Durations: ~107% increase in CAIDI (Customer Average Interruption Duration Index)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reference Table 2, 2020 Reliability Report: Combined T&D system indices including MEDs



## **EFFORTS TO REDUCE EPSS CUSTOMER IMPACTS**



#### **Improvements In Place**

- Fine tuning sensitivity on our equipment to reduce likelihood of an outage
- Increasing communication between our devices to reduce the size of outages
- Improved internal coordination of patrol crews for faster restoration times
- Amended patrol guidance for EPSSenabled circuits



#### **Improvements Underway**

- Installation of additional animal protection on our equipment
- Targeted vegetation clearing to prevent branch and tree fall-ins
- Targeted asset hardening and inspections



#### **Planned Improvements**

- Dedicated crews for restoration and readiness response
- More accurate restoration times during outages



## **EPSS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

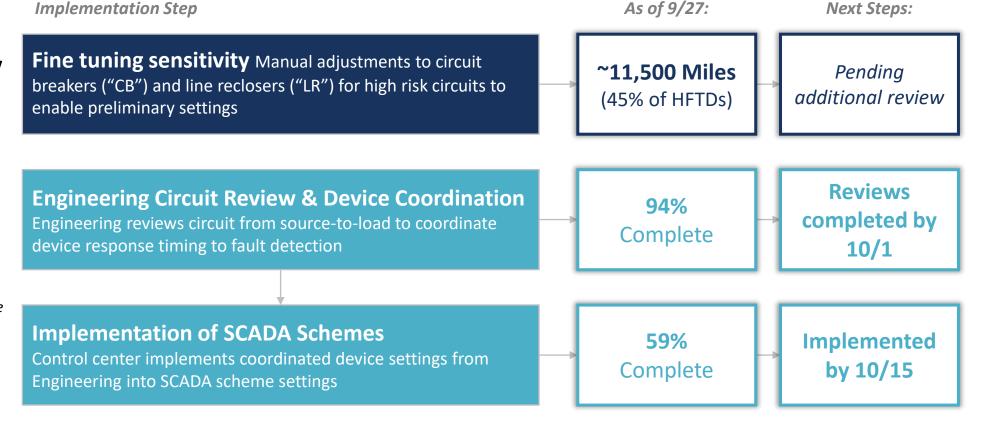
During the 9/8 Update we outlined how EPSS works and the key steps to enable these settings across high-risk circuits:

#### Fine tuning sensitivity

on our equipment to reduce likelihood of an outage

#### Increasing communication

between our devices to reduce the size of outages





## **EPSS IMPACT FROM HIGH-FREQUENCY OUTAGES**

EPSS outages have not been evenly distributed across the service territory, three counties in particular have seen roughly a quarter of all EPSS outages since enablement:

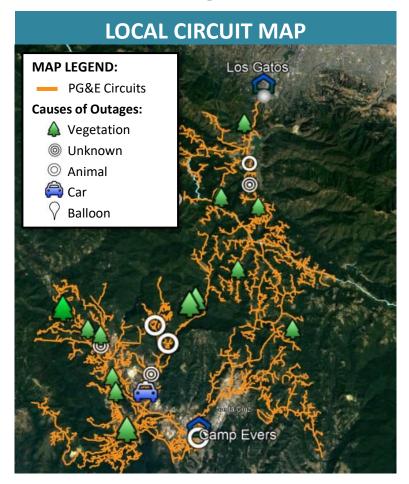


This setting can help prevent wildfires, but we know that it has created a hardship for our communities.



## EXAMPLE COMMUNITY-LEVEL OUTAGE DATA & ACTIONS

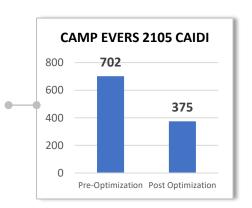
Since we implemented these adjusted settings in late July 2021, there have been approximately 25 instances of outages in the San Lorenzo Valley Community.



CIRCUIT NAME	# OF OUTAGES	AVERAGE CUSTOMER COUNT PER OUTAGE	AVERAGE OUTAGE DURATION
CAMP EVERS 2105	13	~2,041	~8.9 HOURS
LOS GATOS 1106	9	~2,273	~11.6 HOURS
CAMP EVERS 2106	3	~2,142	~12.4 HOURS

#### To further reduce outage impacts we have:

- Deployed dedicated crews with small bucket trucks for restoration and readiness response
- Prioritized engineering review & implementation of device optimization
- Streamlined our patrol and restoration process





## COUNTY-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT & FOCUS

We are engaging with our customers and communities to provide visibility and transparency as to why these outages are occurring, and what we are doing to improve. During our webinars, we cover:

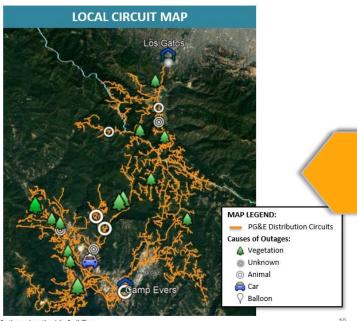


#### **Outages in Your Community**

Since we implemented these adjusted settings in late July 2021, there have been approximately 25 instances of outages in your community.

Circuit Name	# of Outages	Average Customer Count per Outage	Average Outage Duration
Camp Evers 2105	13	~2,041	~8.9 hours
Los Gatos 1106	9	~2,273	~11.6 hours
Camp Evers 2106	3	~2,142	~12.4 hours

Data as of 9/22/21



The rationale for **why** we are enhancing and implementing these critical safety measures

**Information** about Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings and how they are keeping communities safer

Data and **localized insight** about the recent outages in your community

> Information and contact information for Customer Resources and Support



### **EXPANDED COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Email notice and/or postcard** sent to all customers who may be impacted
- **Sprinter mobile command vehicle** on site of outages in Santa Cruz locations
- **Social media postings** targeted to highly impacted communities
- **Letters to customers** on high impacted circuits
- **Engagement** with local elected officials, hospitals, schools, water agencies, and telecommunication customers
- We are committed to responding to every customer question and feedback. Customers can email us at wildfiresafety@pge.com
- **Automated calls** supporting enhanced reliability patrols and Enhanced Powerline Safety Setting outages



includes notification in advance.

necessary repairs prior to restoration.

 This is not a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). A PSPS is proactively turning off power during severe weather and

To learn more, visit pge.com/wildfiresafety.

## **APPENDIX**

Public Safety Measures Addressing Extreme Drought





## HFTD OUTAGE RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Since inception 7/28 PG&E is targeting to respond to outages safely in HFTDs within 60 minutes to identify and mitigate public safety hazards beyond the outage and also allowing for quicker notification and more efficient resource allocation from public agencies (e.g., local police and fire, CalFIRE).

Progress is captured and reported to leadership regularly through PG&E's daily and weekly operating reviews.

#### Performance to date as of 9/26/21:

#	911 RESPONSE TARGET	FULL SYSTEM 911 RESPONSE (SINCE 1/1/21)	HFTD OUTAGE RESPONSE <sup>1</sup> (SINCE 7/28/21)
VOLUME	-	6,600	1,239
RATE	96.7% of Responses < 60 min	97.8%	58.0%

Given the rural and remote nature of HFTD circuits, PG&E is enacting the following additional mitigations to improve response rates:

- ✓ Prioritizing outage response and augmenting resources in rural & remote areas
- ✓ Leveraging 65 pre-staged helicopters for to support outage response for otherwise hard to access areas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Reporting enhancement implemented since 9/6 to separate PSPS & planned outages from HFTD outages; reducing each of these metrics since previous update



## PFRP Scoping Execution Overview

The 2021 PFRP program is underway with two primary objectives for 2021: (1) Protect areas with higher density of equipment slated for repair / replace and (2) Build out an additional control for use during drought.

#### **PFRP Execution Progress to Date** as of 9/24/21:

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL	2	OUTREACH		RETARDANT APPLICATION
2021 PLAN MILES	OUTREACH COMPLETED	RESPONSES	APPROVAL %	MILES APPLIED
80	625	<b>362</b> 58% OF OUTREACH	<b>257</b> 71% OF RESPONSES	8.4
45 – 290 Miles PENDING PROCESS PILOT RESULTS	application have sited environmental con-			
	2021 PLAN MILES  80  45 – 290 Miles PENDING PROCESS PILOT	ENVIRONMENTAL  2021 PLAN MILES  OUTREACH COMPLETED  80  625  45 – 290 Miles PENDING PROCESS PILOT	ENVIRONMENTAL  OUTREACH COMPLETED  RESPONSES  80  625  362 58% OF OUTREACH COMPLETED  OUTREACH COMPLETED  RESPONSES	OUTREACH  2021 PLAN MILES  OUTREACH COMPLETED  RESPONSES  APPROVAL %  362 58% OF 71% OF RESPONSES  OUTREACH  OUTREACH  RESPONSES  INSIGHT: Customers application have cite wildlife impact, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Scoped mileage after considering agriculture, federal, and environmentally sensitive land within 700+ miles of state land and right of ways.



### ADDITIONAL SAFETY PATROLS

**Driven by an increasing trend of vegetation-related ignitions in historical fire scar areas, PG&E is** conducting additional aerial safety patrols on HFTD circuits to identify hazard trees.

#### **Progress & Next Steps** as of 9/26/21:



#### **Tranche 1 & 2 Patrol Flights**

Completed 55 Circuits in top two risk tranches and over 5,500 miles. Risk Tranches based on overlap between high-risk circuits including fire scar areas.



#### **Tranche 1 & 2 Patrol Finding Mitigations**

Remediate 17 P1 and P2 findings



#### **Risk Tranche 3 Patrol Flights & Mitigations**

Conduct remaining patrol flights on 480 miles and mitigate findings as appropriate

	TRANCHE 1 & 2	TRANCHE 3 <sup>1</sup>
CIRCUIT MILES	5,529 <sup>1</sup>	~6,400
P1 TREES IDENTIFIED	3	Pending Patrols
P2 TREES IDENTIFIED	14	Pending Patrols

<sup>1.</sup> Detailed scope review underway for Tranche 3 Mileage



## **WORK METHOD ENHANCEMENTS IN HFTD**

PG&E is reinforcing the requirements in Utility Standard TD-1464S, Preventing and Mitigating Fires While Performing PG&E Work and biasing towards performing field work in HFTDs on de-energized equipment during critical fire danger conditions (e.g., Fire Potential Index of R4, R5, or R5+).

CURRENT STANDARD	ADDITIONAL WORK METHOD ENHANCEMENTS
Fire watch needed for R5 rating day work	Dedicated Fire watch now needed for R4, R5 rating day work
Water buffalo needs to be on jobsite	Water buffalo needs to be as close as possible to jobsite with hose laid out on the ground and be ready to operate
No ground clearing required or wetting of trees considered	When working in areas of forests, clear the area to bare mineral soil and consider wetting the trees in the immediate vicinity of the work location